received from the source is destined for a destination which must be accessed through the trunk group, by checking a trunk bit in a lookup table. An appropriate trunk port of the trunk group on which to send the packet to the destination is then identified, and the packet is then forwarded to the destination on the appropriate trunk port.

The invention is also directed to a system for sending packets between ports on trunked network switches. The system comprises a first switch having a plurality of communication ports, and a second switch having a plurality of communication ports. A trunk connection is provided between the first switch and the second switch, and a sending unit sends a packet from a first port of the first switch to a second port of the second switch. An ingress unit is provided in the first switch for receiving the packet from a source, and for performing an address resolution lookup on one of a source address and a destination address of the packet based on a lookup table. An identifying unit identifies that the first switch and the second switch are connected by the trunk connection by checking a trunk bit in the lookup table. The identifying unit also identifies an appropriate trunk port of a trunk group on which to send the packet to a destination. The invention also includes a forwarding unit for forwarding the packet to the destination on the appropriate trunk port.

Page 4, delete lines 1-32 in their entirety.

Page 5, delete lines 1 and 2 in their entirety.

REMARKS

As noted in the previously filed Preliminary Amendment, the subject application is a divisional application of United States patent application Serial No. 09/343,718, which